AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 11, 2003 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 4, 2003 AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 13, 2003

SENATE BILL No. 1

Introduced by Senators Speier and Burton

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Jackson)

(Coauthors: Senators Bowen, Escutia, Kuehl, and Ortiz)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Chan*, Cohn, Goldberg, Hancock, Kehoe, Koretz, Laird, Leno, Lowenthal, Mullin, and Pavley, *and Simitian*)

December 2, 2002

An act to add Division 1.2 (commencing with Section 4050) to the Financial Code, relating to financial privacy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1, as amended, Speier. Financial institutions: nonpublic personal information.

Existing law provides for the regulation of banks, savings associations, credit unions, and industrial loan companies by the Department of Financial Institutions and by certain federal agencies. Existing federal law, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, requires financial institutions to provide a notice to consumers relative to the use by the financial institution of nonpublic personal information, and in that regard authorizes consumers to direct that the information not be shared with nonaffiliated third parties.

This bill would enact the California Financial Information Privacy Act, which would require a financial institution, as defined, to provide a specified written form to a consumer relative to the sharing of the SB 1 -2-

consumer's nonpublic personal information, as defined. The bill would generally allow a consumer to direct the financial institution to not share the nonpublic personal information with affiliated companies or with nonaffiliated financial companies with which the financial institution has contracted to provide financial products and services, but would not restrict or prohibit the sharing of nonpublic personal information between a financial institution and its wholly owned financial institution subsidiaries or in certain other cases if both entities are regulated by the same functional regulator and are engaged in the same line of business, among other requirements. The bill would require the permission of the consumer before the financial institution could share the nonpublic personal information with other nonaffiliated companies. The bill would provide that a financial institution is not required to provide this written form to its consumers if the financial institution does not disclose any nonpublic personal information to any nonaffiliated 3rd party or to any affiliate.

This bill would provide that a financial institution shall not discriminate against or deny an otherwise qualified consumer a financial product or service because the consumer has not provided the necessary consent that would authorize the financial institution to disclose or share nonpublic personal information. The bill would require a financial institution to comply with the consumer's request regarding nonpublic personal information within 45 days of receipt of the request.

This bill would provide that a financial institution may disclose nonpublic personal information to an affiliate or a nonaffiliated 3rd party in order for it to perform certain services on behalf of the financial institution if specified requirements are met. The bill would provide other exceptions from its provisions applicable to particular situations.

This bill would provide that nonpublic personal information may be released in order to identify or locate missing children, witnesses, criminals and fugitives, parties to lawsuits, and missing heirs and that it would not change existing law regarding access by law enforcement agencies to information held by financial institutions.

This bill would also provide for disclosure of nonpublic personal information under various other specified circumstances.

This bill would provide that enactment of these provisions preempts all local agency ordinances and regulations relating to this subject.

This bill would enact other related provisions.

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This bill would also provide various civil penalties for negligent, or knowing and willful violations of these provisions. The penalties under the bill would not become operative until July 1, 2004.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Division 1.2 (commencing with Section 4050) 1 2 is added to the Financial Code, to read:

DIVISION 1.2. CALIFORNIA FINANCIAL INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

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- 4050. This division shall be known and may be cited as the California Financial Information Privacy Act.
- 4051. (a) The Legislature intends for financial institutions to provide their consumers notice and meaningful choice about how consumers' nonpublic personal information is shared or sold by their financial institutions.
- (b) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting the California Financial Information Privacy Act to afford persons greater privacy protections than those provided in Public Law 106–102, the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and that this division be interpreted to be consistent with that purpose.
- 4051.5. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- (1) The California Constitution protects the privacy of California citizens from unwarranted intrusions into their private and personal lives.
- (2) Federal banking legislation, known 24 Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which breaks down restrictions on affiliation among different types of financial institutions, 26 increases the likelihood that the personal financial information of California residents will be widely shared among, between, and within companies.
 - (3) The policies intended to protect financial privacy imposed by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act are inadequate to meet the privacy concerns of California residents.

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(4) Because of the limitations of these federal policies, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act explicitly permits states to enact privacy protections that are stronger than those provided in federal law.

- (b) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this division:
- (1) To ensure that Californians have the ability to control the disclosure of personally identifiable financial what the Gramm-Leach-Billey Act calls nonpublic personal information for purposes other than those of the transactions into which they have entered.
- (2) To achieve that control for California consumers by requiring that financial institutions that want to share information with third parties and unrelated companies seek and acquire the affirmative consent of California consumers *prior to sharing the information*.
- (3) To further achieve that control for California consumers by providing consumers with the ability to prevent the sharing of financial information among affiliated companies through a simple opt-out mechanism *via a clear and understandable notice* provided to the consumer.
- (4) To provide, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the purposes cited above, a level playing field among types and sizes of businesses consistent with the objective of providing consumers control over their personally identifiable financial nonpublic personal information, including providing that those financial institutions with limited affiliate relationships may enter into agreements with other financial institutions on an "affiliate-equivalent" basis, as defined in statute, and providing that the different business models of differing financial institutions are treated in ways that provide consistent consumer control over information-sharing practices.
- (5) To adopt to the maximum extent feasible, consistent with the purposes cited above, definitions consistent with federal law, so that in particular there is no change in the ability of businesses to carry out normal processes of commerce for transactions voluntarily entered into by consumers.
 - 4052. For the purposes of this division:
- (a) "Nonpublic personal information" means personally identifiable financial information (1) provided by a consumer to a financial institution, (2) resulting from any transaction with the

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consumer or any service performed for the consumer, or (3) 2 otherwise obtained by the financial institution. Nonpublic 3 personal information does not include publicly available information that the financial institution has a reasonable basis to 5 believe is lawfully made available to the general public from (1) 6 federal, state, or local government records, (2) widely distributed media, or (3) disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by federal, state, or local law. Nonpublic personal 9 information shall include any list, description, or other grouping of consumers, and publicly available information pertaining to 10 11 them that is derived using any nonpublic personal information 12 other than publicly available information, but shall not include any 13 list, description, or other grouping of consumers, and publicly 14 available information pertaining to them that is derived without using any nonpublic personal information. 15 16

(b) "Personally identifiable financial information" means information (1) that a consumer provides to a financial institution to obtain a product or service from the financial institution, (2) about a consumer resulting from any transaction involving a product or service between the financial institution and a consumer, or (3) that the financial institution otherwise obtains about a consumer in connection with providing a product or service to that consumer. Any personally identifiable information is financial if it was obtained by a financial institution in connection with providing a financial product or service to a consumer. Personally identifiable financial information includes all of the following:

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- (1) Information a consumer provides to a financial institution on an application to obtain a loan, credit card, or other financial product or service.
- (2) Account balance information, payment history, overdraft history, and credit or debit card purchase information.
- (3) The fact that an individual is or has been a consumer of a financial institution or has obtained a financial product or service from a financial institution.
- (4) Any information about a financial institution's consumer if it is disclosed in a manner that indicates that the individual is or has been the financial institution's consumer.

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(5) Any information that a consumer provides to a financial institution or that a financial institution or its agent otherwise obtains in connection with collecting on a loan or servicing a loan.

- (6) Any personally identifiable financial information collected through an Internet cookie or an information collecting device from a Web server.
 - (7) Information from a consumer report.
- (c) "Financial institution" means any institution the business of which is engaging in financial activities as described in Section 1843(k) of Title 12 of the United States Code and doing business in this state. An institution that is not significantly engaged in financial activities is not a financial institution. The term "financial institution" does not include any institution that is primarily engaged in providing hardware, software, or interactive services, provided that it is not engaged in other activities governed by the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and does not engage in other the practice of debt collection, as defined in Section 1788.2 of the Civil Code, the practice of tax preparation, as defined in Section 22251 of the Business and Professions Code, or activities for which the institution is required to acquire a charter, license, or registration from a state or federal governmental banking, insurance, or securities agency. The term "financial institution" does not include the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation or any entity chartered and operating under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. Sec. 2001 et seq.), provided that the entity does not sell or transfer nonpublic personal information to an affiliate or a nonaffiliated third party. The term "financial institution" does not include institutions chartered by Congress specifically to engage in a proposed or actual securitization, secondary market sale, including sales of servicing rights, or similar transactions related to a transaction of the consumer, as long as those institutions do not sell or transfer nonpublic personal information to a nonaffiliate third party. The term "financial institution" does not include any provider of professional services, or any wholly owned affiliate thereof, that is prohibited by rules of professional ethics and applicable law from voluntarily disclosing confidential client information without the consent of the client.
- (d) "Affiliate" means any entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, another entity, but does not

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include a joint employee of the entity and the affiliate. A franchisor, including any affiliate thereof, shall be deemed an affiliate of the franchisee for purposes of this division.

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- (e) "Nonaffiliated third party" means any entity that is not an affiliate of, or related by common ownership or affiliated by corporate control with, the financial institution, but does not include a joint employee of that institution and a third party.
- (f) "Consumer" means an individual resident of this state, or that individual's legal representative, who obtains or has obtained from a financial institution a financial product or service to be used primarily for personal, family, or household purposes. For purposes of this division, an individual resident of this state is someone whose last known mailing address, other than an Armed Forces Post Office or Fleet Post Office address, as shown in the records of the financial institution, is located in this state. For purposes of this division, an individual is not a consumer of a financial institution solely because he or she is (1) a participant or beneficiary of an employee benefit plan that a financial institution administers or sponsors, or for which the financial institution acts as a trustee, insurer, or fiduciary, (2) covered under a group or blanket insurance policy or group annuity contract issued by the financial institution, (3) a beneficiary in a workers' compensation plan, (4) a beneficiary of a trust for which the financial institution is a trustee, or (5) a person who has designated the financial institution as trustee for a trust, provided that the financial institution provides all required notices and rights required by this division to the plan sponsor, group or blanket insurance policyholder, or group annuity contractholder.
- (g) "Control" means (1) ownership or power to vote 25 percent or more of the outstanding shares of any class of voting security of a company, acting through one or more persons, (2) control in any manner over the election of a majority of the directors, or of individuals exercising similar functions, or (3) the power to exercise, directly or indirectly, a controlling influence over the management or policies of a company. However, for purposes of the application of the definition of control as it relates to credit unions, a credit union has a controlling influence over the management or policies of a credit union service organization (CUSO), as that term is defined by state or federal law or regulation, if the CUSO is at least 67 percent owned by credit

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unions. For purposes of the application of the definition of control to a financial institution subject to regulation by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, a person who owns beneficially, either directly or through one or more controlled 5 companies, more than 25 percent of the voting securities of a 6 company is presumed to control the company, and a person who does not own more than 25 percent of the voting securities of a company is presumed not to control the company, and a 9 presumption regarding control may be rebutted by evidence, but in the case of an investment company, the presumption shall 10 11 continue until the United States Securities and Exchange 12 Commission makes a decision to the contrary according to the 13 procedures described in Section 2(a)(9) of the federal Investment 14 Company Act of 1940.

- (h) "Necessary to effect, administer, or enforce" means the following:
- (1) The disclosure is required, or is a usual, appropriate, or acceptable method to carry out the transaction or the product or service business of which the transaction is a part, and record or service or maintain the consumer's account in the ordinary course of providing the financial service or financial product, or to administer or service benefits or claims relating to the transaction or the product or service business of which it is a part, and includes the following:
- (A) Providing the consumer or the consumer's agent or broker with a confirmation, statement, or other record of the transaction, or information on the status or value of the financial service or financial product.
- (B) The accrual or recognition of incentives, *discounts*, or bonuses associated with the transaction or communications to eligible existing consumers of the financial institution regarding the availability of those incentives, *discounts*, and bonuses that are provided by the financial institution or another party.
- (C) With respect to In the case of a financial institution that has issued a credit account bearing the name of a company primarily engaged in retail sales or a name proprietary to a company primarily engaged in retail sales, providing the retailer, or licensees or contractors of the retailer that provide products or services in the name of the retailer and under a contract with the retailer, with nonpublic personal information pertaining to the

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transaction between the consumer and the retailer or those licensees or contractors. nothing in this division shall prohibit the financial institution from providing the retailer with nonpublic personal information as follows:

- (i) Where the credit account can only be used for transactions with the retailer or affiliates of that retailer that are also primarily engaged in retail sales, providing the retailer, or licensees or contractors of the retailer that provide products or services in the name of the retailer and under a contract with the retailer, with nonpublic personal information concerning the credit account, in connection with the offering or provision of the products or services of the retailer and those licensees or contractors.
- (ii) Providing the retailer, or licensees or contractors of the 14 retailer that provide products or services in the name of the retailer and under a contract with the retailer, with the names and addresses of the consumers in whose name the account is held and a record of the purchases made using the credit account from a business establishment, including a Web site or catalog, bearing the brand name of the retailer.
 - (2) The disclosure is required or is one of the lawful or appropriate methods to enforce the rights of the financial institution or of other persons engaged in carrying out the financial transaction or providing the product or service.
 - (3) The disclosure is required, or is a usual, appropriate, or acceptable method for insurance underwriting or the placement of insurance products by licensed agents and brokers with authorized insurance companies at the consumer's request, for reinsurance, stop loss insurance, or excess loss insurance purposes, or for any of the following purposes as they relate to a consumer's insurance:
 - (A) Account administration.

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- (B) Reporting, investigating, or preventing fraud or material misrepresentation.
 - (C) Processing premium payments.
 - (D) Processing insurance claims.
- (E) Administering insurance benefits, including utilization 36 review activities.
 - (F) Participating in research projects.
- (G) As otherwise required or specifically permitted by federal 38 39 or state law.

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(4) The disclosure is required, or is a usual, appropriate, or acceptable method, in connection with the following:

- (A) The authorization, settlement, billing, processing, clearing, transferring, reconciling, or collection of amounts charged, debited, or otherwise paid using a debit, credit or other payment card, check, or account number, or by other payment means.
 - (B) The transfer of receivables, accounts, or interests therein.
 - (C) The audit of debit, credit, or other payment information.
- (5) The disclosure is required in a transaction covered by the federal Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (12 U.S.C. Sec. 2601 et seq.) in order to offer settlement services prior to the close of escrow (as those services are defined in 12 U.S.C. Sec. 2602), provided that (A) the nonpublic personal information is disclosed for the sole purpose of offering those settlement services and (B) the nonpublic personal information disclosed is limited to that necessary to enable the financial institution to offer those settlement services in that transaction.
- (i) "Financial product or service" means any product or service that a financial holding company could offer by engaging in an activity that is financial in nature or incidental to a financial activity under subsection (k) of Section 1843 of Title 12 of the United States Code (the United States Bank Holding Company Act of 1956). Financial service includes a financial institution's evaluation or brokerage of information that the financial institution collects in connection with a request or an application from a consumer for a financial product or service.
- (j) "Clear and conspicuous" means that a notice is reasonably understandable and designed to call attention to the nature and significance of the information contained in the notice.
- (k) "Widely distributed media" means media available to the general public and includes a telephone book, a television or radio program, a newspaper, or a Web site that is available to the general public on an unrestricted basis.
- 4052.5. Except as provided in Section 4053, a financial institution shall not sell, share, transfer, or otherwise disclose nonpublic personal information to or with any nonaffiliated third parties without the explicit prior consent of the consumer to whom the nonpublic personal information relates.

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1 4053. (a) (1) A financial institution shall not disclose to, or 2 share a consumer's nonpublic personal information with, any nonaffiliated third party as prohibited by Section 4052.5, unless the financial institution has provided written notice pursuant to 5 subdivision (d) to the consumer to whom the nonpublic personal 6 information relates and unless the financial institution has obtained a consent acknowledgment from the consumer pursuant to subdivision (d) that complies with paragraph (2) that authorizes 9 the financial institution to disclose or share the nonpublic personal information. Nothing in this section shall prohibit or otherwise 10 11 apply to the disclosure of nonpublic personal information as 12 allowed in Section 4056. A financial institution shall not 13 discriminate against or deny an otherwise qualified consumer a 14 financial product or a financial service because the consumer has not provided consent pursuant to this subdivision and Section 15 16 4052.5 to authorize the financial institution to disclose or share 17 nonpublic personal information pertaining to him or her with any nonaffiliated third party. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a 19 financial institution from denying a consumer a financial product 20 or service if the financial institution could not provide the product 21 or service to a consumer without disclosure of the consumer's 22 nonpublic personal information, and the consumer has failed to 23 provide consent for that disclosure pursuant to this subdivision and 24 Section 4052.5. A financial institution shall not be liable for failing 25 to offer products and services to a consumer solely because that 26 consumer has failed to provide consent pursuant to this 27 subdivision and Section 4052.5 and the financial institution could 28 not offer the product or service without disclosing the consumer's 29 nonpublic personal information. Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit a financial institution from offering incentives 30 31 or discounts to elicit a specific response to the notice.

(2) A financial institution shall not utilize a form, statement, or writing to obtain consent to disclose nonpublic personal information to nonaffiliated third parties as required by Section 4052.5 and this subdivision unless the form, statement, or writing meets all the following criteria:

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- (A) The form, statement, or writing is a separate document, not attached to any other document.
- (B) The form, statement, or writing is dated and signed by the consumer.

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 (C) The form, statement, or writing clearly and conspicuously discloses that by signing, the consumer is consenting to the disclosure to nonaffilated third parties of nonpublic personal information pertaining to the consumer.

- (D) The form, statement, or writing clearly and conspicuously discloses (i) that the consent will remain in effect until revoked or modified by the consumer; (ii) that the consumer may revoke the consent at any time; and (iii) the procedure for the consumer to revoke consent.
- (E) The form, statement, or writing clearly and conspicuously informs the consumer that (i) the financial institution will maintain the document or a true and correct copy; (ii) the consumer is entitled to a copy of the document upon request; and (iii) the consumer may want to make a copy of the document for the consumer's records.
- (b) (1) A financial institution shall not disclose to, or share a consumer's nonpublic personal information with, an affiliate unless the financial institution clearly and conspicuously notifies the consumer annually in writing pursuant to subdivision (d) that the nonpublic personal information may be disclosed to an affiliate of the financial institution and the consumer has not directed that the nonpublic personal information not be disclosed. A financial institution does not disclose information to, or share information with, its affiliate merely because information is maintained in common information systems or databases, and employees of the financial institution and its affiliate have access to those common information systems or databases, or a consumer accesses a Web site jointly operated or maintained under a common name by or on behalf of the financial institution and its affiliate, provided that where a consumer has exercised his or her right to prohibit disclosure pursuant to this division, nonpublic personal information is not further disclosed to or accessed or used by an affiliate except as permitted under Section 4056 by this division.
- (2) Subdivision (a) shall not prohibit the release of nonpublic personal information by a financial institution with whom the consumer has a relationship to a nonaffiliated financial institution for purposes of jointly offering a financial product or financial service pursuant to a written agreement with the financial institution that receives the nonpublic personal information provided that all of the following requirements are met:

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(A) The financial product or service offered is a product or service of, and is provided by, at least one of the financial institutions that is a party to the written agreement.

- (B) The financial product or service is jointly offered, endorsed, or sponsored, and clearly and conspicuously identifies for the consumer the financial institutions that disclose and receive the disclosed nonpublic personal information.
- (C) The written agreement provides that the financial institution that receives that nonpublic personal information is required to maintain the confidentiality of the information and is prohibited from disclosing or using the information other than to carry out the joint offering or servicing of a financial product or financial service that is the subject of the written agreement.
- (D) The financial institution that releases the nonpublic personal information has complied with subdivision (e) (d) and the consumer has not directed that the nonpublic personal information not be disclosed. The financial institution may, at its option, choose instead to comply with the requirements of subdivision (a).
- (E) Notwithstanding this section, until January 1, 2005, a financial institution may disclose nonpublic personal information to a nonaffiliated financial institution pursuant to a preexisting contract with the nonaffiliated financial institution, for purposes of offering a financial product or financial service, if that contract was entered into on or before January 1, 2004. Beginning on January 1, 2005, no nonpublic personal information may be disclosed pursuant to that contract unless all the requirements of this subdivision are met.
- (3) Nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit a financial institution from disclosing or sharing nonpublic personal information as otherwise specifically permitted by this division.
- (4) A financial institution shall not discriminate against or deny an otherwise qualified consumer a financial product or a financial service because the consumer has directed pursuant to this subdivision that nonpublic personal information pertaining to him or her not be disclosed. A financial institution shall not be required to offer or provide products or services offered through affiliated entities solely because the consumer has directed that nonpublic personal information not be disclosed to affiliates pursuant to this subdivision and the financial institution could not offer or provide

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the products or services to the consumer without disclosure of the consumer's nonpublic personal information. A financial institution shall not be liable for failing to offer or provide products or services offered through affiliated entities solely because the consumer has directed that nonpublic personal information not be disclosed to affiliates pursuant to this subdivision and the financial institution could not offer or provide the products or services to the consumer without disclosure of the consumer's nonpublic information. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the disclosure of nonpublic personal information allowed by Section 4056. Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit a financial institution from offering incentives or discounts to elicit a specific response to the notice set forth in this division.

- (c) Nothing in this division shall restrict or prohibit the sharing of nonpublic personal information between a financial institution and its wholly owned financial institution subsidiaries; among financial institutions that are each wholly owned by the same financial institution; or among the insurance exchanges entities of a single insurance holding company system consisting of one or more reciprocal insurance exchanges which has a single corporation or its wholly owned subsidiaries providing management services to the reciprocal insurance exchanges, provided that in each case all of the following requirements are met:
- (1) The financial institution disclosing the nonpublic personal information and the financial institution receiving it are regulated by the same functional regulator; provided, however, that for purposes of this subdivision, financial institutions regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Office of Thrift Supervision, National Credit Union Administration, or a state regulator of depository institutions shall be deemed to be regulated by the same functional regulator; and insurers admitted in this state to transact insurance and licensed to write insurance policies shall be deemed to be in compliance with this paragraph.
- (2) The financial institution disclosing the nonpublic personal information and the financial institution receiving it is *are* each engaged in the same line of business. For purposes of this subdivision, "same line of business" shall be any one of the following:

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1 (A) Insurance products, including annuities and variable life products.

- (B) Banking, including lending, deposit-taking, trust and payment services, and credit services.
- (C) Securities, including underwriting, dealing, market-making, investment advisory services, and merchant banking.
- (3) The financial institution disclosing the nonpublic personal information and the financial institution receiving it share a common element *brand name* within their trademark, service mark, or trade name, which is used to identify the source of the products and services provided.

Nothing in this subdivision shall permit the disclosure by a financial institution of medical information, as defined in subdivision (q) of Section 791.02 of the Insurance Code, except in compliance with the requirements of this division, including the requirements set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b).

- (d) (1) A financial institution shall be conclusively presumed to have satisfied the notice requirements of this subdivision subdivision (b) if it uses the form set forth in this subdivision. The form set forth in this subdivision shall be sent by the financial institution to the consumer so that the consumer may make a decision and provide direction to the financial institution regarding the sharing of his or her nonpublic personal information. A form that does not use the specific language provided in this subdivision shall instead meet all of the following minimum standards for clarity and readability: requirements:
- (A) The form uses the same title ("IMPORTANT PRIVACY CHOICES FOR CONSUMERS") and headers (headings designated in the form set forth below, such as "Restricting Information Sharing to the Greatest Extent Allowed By Law").
- (B) The titles and headers in the form are clearly and conspicuously displayed, and no text in the form is smaller than 10-point type.
- (C) The form is a separate document, except as it pertains to forms sent pursuant to Section provided by this section, and Sections 4054 and 4058.7.
- 38 (D) The "choice boxes" provided in the form use the same 39 language (for example, "____No, I prohibit you from please do 40 not share ...").

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(E) The form is designed to call attention to the nature and significance of the information in the document.

- (F) The form presents information in clear and concise sentences, paragraphs, and sections.
- (G) The form uses short explanatory sentences (an average of 15-20 words) or bullet lists whenever possible.
- (H) The form avoids multiple negatives, legal terminology, and highly technical terminology whenever possible.
- (I) The form avoids explanations that are imprecise and readily subject to different interpretations.
- (J) The form achieves a minimum flesch reading ease score of 50, as defined in Section 2689.4(a)(7) of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations, in effect on March 24, 2003.
- (K) The form provides wide margins, ample line spacing and uses boldface or italics for key words.
 - (L) The form is not more than one page.
- (2) (A) None of the instructional items appearing in parentheses brackets in the form set forth below in this subdivision shall appear in the form provided to the consumer, as those items are for explanation purposes only. If a financial institution does not disclose or share nonpublic personal information as described in any one or more of the first three 23 headers of the form, the financial institution is not required to include the applicable header or headers, and the accompanying information and box, in the form it provides pursuant to this subdivision.

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(B) If a consumer selects the box associated with the header restricting information sharing to the greatest extent allowed by law, that choice shall supersede all other choices.

- (C) A financial institution shall not be in violation of this subdivision solely because it includes in the form one or more brief examples or explanations of the purpose or purposes, or context, within which information will be shared, as long as those examples meet the clarity and readability standards set forth in paragraph (1).
- (D) The outside of the envelope in which the form is sent to the consumer shall clearly state in 16-point boldface type "IMPORTANT PRIVACY CHOICES," except that a financial institution sending the form to a consumer in the same envelope as a bill, account statement, insurance policy, or application requested by the consumer does not have to include the wording "IMPORTANT PRIVACY CHOICES" on that envelope. The form shall be sent in any of the following ways:
- (i) With a bill, other statement of account, insurance policy, or application requested by the consumer, in which case the information required by Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act may also be included *in the same envelope*.
- (ii) As a separate notice or with the information required by Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and including only information related to privacy.
- (iii) With any other mailing, in which case it shall be the first page of the mailing.
- (3) The consumer shall be provided an opportunity, before disclosure of information pursuant to this division, for 45 days from the date of postmark or other postal verification of mailing of the initial notice required by this subdivision, to direct that the nonpublic personal information not be disclosed except as otherwise permitted by this division. A consumer may direct at any time that his or her nonpublic personal information not be disclosed, except as otherwise permitted by this division. A financial institution shall comply with a consumer's directions concerning the sharing of his or her nonpublic personal information within 45 days of receipt by the financial institution. When a consumer directs that nonpublic personal information not be disclosed, that direction is in effect until otherwise stated by the consumer.

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(4) A financial institution may elect to comply with the requirements of subdivision (a) with respect to disclosure of nonpublic personal information to an affiliate or with respect to nonpublic personal information disclosed pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b).

- (5) If a financial institution does not have a continuing relationship with a consumer other than the initial transaction in which the product or service is provided, no annual disclosure requirement exists pursuant to this section as long as the financial institution provides the consumer with the form required by this section at the time of the initial transaction. As used in this section, "annually" means at least once in any period of 12 consecutive months during which that relationship exists. The financial institution may define the 12-consecutive-month period, but shall apply it to the consumer on a consistent basis. If, for example, a financial institution defines the 12-consecutive-month period as a calendar year and provides the annual notice to the consumer once in each calendar year, it complies with the requirement to send the notice annually.
- (6) A financial institution with assets in excess of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) shall include a self-addressed postage paid first class business reply return envelope with the notice. A financial institution with assets of up to and including twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) shall include a self-addressed return envelope with the notice. In addition to the return envelope required by this paragraph, a financial institution may offer additional means for consumers to communicate their privacy choices, such as calling a toll-free number, sending a facsimile to a toll-free telephone number, or using electronic means. A financial institution shall clearly and conspicuously disclose in the form required by this subdivision the information necessary to direct the consumer on how to communicate his or her choices, including the toll-free or facsimile number or Web site address that may be used, if those means of communication are offered by the financial institution.
- (7) If the notice sent by a financial institution deviates from the notice included in this subdivision, a financial institution shall file a copy of the initial notice or notices required by this subdivision with the Attorney General. No subsequent filing is required until the financial institution modifies the notice, in which case a copy

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of the notice as modified shall be filed with the Attorney General. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require that a financial institution file with the Attorney General a copy of the notice or notices it provides to consumers more often than once in each calendar year. The Attorney General may approve for use by a financial institution a notice which deviates from the notice included in paragraph (2) prior to use by that financial institution, as long as the notice complies with the provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (L), inclusive, of paragraph (1).

(8) A financial institution may provide a joint notice from it and one or more of its affiliates or other financial institutions, as identified in the notice, so long as the notice is accurate with respect to the financial institution and the affiliates and other financial institutions.

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- (e) Nothing in this division shall prohibit a financial institution from marketing its own products and services or the products and services of affiliates or nonaffiliated third parties to customers of the financial institution as long as (1) nonpublic personal information is not disclosed in connection with the delivery of the applicable marketing materials to those customers except as permitted by Section 4056 and (2) in cases in which the applicable nonaffiliated third party may extrapolate nonpublic personal information about the consumer responding to those marketing materials, the applicable nonaffiliated third party has signed a contract with the financial institution under the terms of which (A) the nonaffiliated third party is prohibited from using that information for any purpose other than the purpose transaction for which it was provided, which includes a prohibition on multiple uses of that information for different offerings to the consumer, and (B) the financial institution has the right by audit, inspections, or other means to verify the nonaffiliated third party's compliance with that contract.
- 4053.5. Except as otherwise provided in this division, an entity that receives nonpublic personal information from a financial institution under this division shall not disclose this information to any other entity, unless the disclosure would be lawful if made directly to the other entity by the financial institution. An entity that receives nonpublic personal information pursuant to any exception set forth in Section 4056 shall not use or disclose the information except in the ordinary course of

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business to carry out the activity covered by the exception under which the information was received.

- 4054. (a) Nothing in this division shall require a financial institution to provide a written notice to a consumer pursuant to Section 4053 if the financial institution does not disclose nonpublic personal information to any nonaffiliated third party or to any affiliate, except as allowed in this division.
- (b) A notice provided to a member of a household pursuant to Section 4053 shall be considered notice to all members of that household unless that household contains another individual who also has a separate account with the financial institution.
- (c) (1) The requirement to send a written notice to a consumer may be fulfilled by electronic means if the following requirements are met:
- (A) The notice, and the manner in which it is sent, meets all of the requirements for notices that are required by law to be in writing, as set forth in Section 101 of the federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.
- (B) All other requirements applicable to the notice, as set forth in this division, are met, including, but not limited to, requirements concerning content, timing, form, and delivery. An electronic notice sent pursuant to this section is not required to include a return envelope.
- (C) The notice is delivered to the consumer in a form the consumer may keep.
- (2) A notice that is made available to a consumer, and is not delivered to the consumer, does not satisfy the requirements of paragraph (1).
- (3) Any electronic consumer reply to an electronic notice sent pursuant to this division is effective. A person that electronically sends a notice required by this division to a consumer may not by contract, or otherwise, eliminate the effectiveness of the consumer's electronic reply.
- (4) This division modifies the provisions of Section 101 of the federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. However, it does not modify, limit, or supersede the provisions of subsection (c), (d), (e), (f), or (h) of Section 101 of the federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, nor does it authorize electronic delivery of any

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notice of the type described in subsection (b) of Section 103 of that federal act.

4054.6. (a) When a financial institution and an organization or business entity that is not a financial institution have an agreement to issue a credit card in the name of the organization or business entity ("affinity card"), the financial institution shall be permitted to disclose to the organization or business entity in whose name the card is issued only the following information pertaining to the financial institution's customers who are in receipt of the affinity card: (1) name and address, of those who accepted the affinity card, the disclosure of which shall not constitute a violation of this division, (2) electronic mail address, and (3) record of purchases made using the affinity card in a business establishment, including a Web site, bearing the brand name of the organization or business entity, provided all of the following requirements are met:

- (a) requirements of subdivision (b) are met.
- (b) The disclosures specified in subdivision (a) shall be permitted if the following requirements are met:
- (1) The financial institution has provided the notice required by this division to the consumer, as it relates to paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), the consumer the notice required by paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 4053 or, if that notice is not used, a notice meeting the requirements of paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 4053, and the consumer has not directed that nonpublic personal information not be disclosed, except that the disclosure of the name and address of those in receipt of the affinity card is allowed. The sharing or disclosing of any information beyond that provided for in this section shall be prohibited unless the financial institution has received prior consent from the consumer pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4053.

(b)

 (2) The financial institution has a contractual agreement with the organization or business entity that requires the organization or entity in whose name the affinity card is issued to maintain the confidentiality of the nonpublic personal information and prohibits the entity in whose name the affinity card is issued from using the information for any purposes other than verifying membership, verifying the affinity cardholder's address, or

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offering the organization or entity's own products or services to the cardholder. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the disclosure of nonpublic personal information allowed by Section 4056.

(c)

(3) The customer list is not disclosed in any way that reveals or permits extrapolation of any additional nonpublic personal information about any customer on the list.

(d)

(4) If the organization or business entity in whose name the *affinity* card is issued sends any message to any electronic mail addresses obtained pursuant to this section, the message shall include at least both of the following:

(1)

(A) The identity of the sender of the message.

(2)

- (*B*) A cost-free means for the recipient to notify the sender not to electronically mail any further messages to the recipient.
- 4056. (a) This division shall not apply to information that is not personally identifiable to a particular person.
- (b) Sections 4052.5, 4053, and 4054 shall not prohibit the release of nonpublic personal information under the following circumstances:
- (1) The nonpublic personal information is necessary to effect, administer, or enforce a transaction requested or authorized by the consumer, or in connection with servicing or processing a financial product or service requested or authorized by the consumer, or in connection with maintaining or servicing the consumer's account with the financial institution, or with another entity as part of a private label credit card program or other extension of credit on behalf of that entity, or in connection with a proposed or actual securitization or secondary market sale, including sales of servicing rights, or similar transactions related to a transaction of the consumer.
- (2) The nonpublic personal information is released with the consent of or at the direction of the consumer.
 - (3) The nonpublic personal information is:
- (A) Released to protect the confidentiality or security of the financial institution's records pertaining to the consumer, the service or product, or the transaction therein.

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(B) Released to protect against or prevent actual or potential fraud, identity theft, unauthorized transactions, claims, or other liability.

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- (C) Released for required institutional risk control, or for resolving customer disputes or inquiries.
- (D) Released to persons holding a legal or beneficial interest relating to the consumer, including for purposes of debt collection.
- (E) Released to persons acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity on behalf of the consumer.
- (4) The nonpublic personal information is released to provide information to insurance rate advisory organizations, guaranty funds or agencies, applicable rating agencies of the financial institution, persons assessing the institution's compliance with industry standards, and the institution's attorneys, accountants, and auditors.
- (5) The nonpublic personal information is released to the extent specifically required or specifically permitted under other provisions of law and in accordance with the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. Sec. 3401 et seq.), to law enforcement agencies, including a federal functional regulator, the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to subchapter II of Chapter 53 of Title 31, and Chapter 2 of Title I of Public Law 91-508 (12 U.S.C. Secs. 1951-1959), the California Department of Insurance or other state insurance regulators, or the Federal Trade Commission, and self-regulatory organizations, or for an investigation on a matter related to public safety.
- (6) The nonpublic personal information is released in connection with a proposed or actual sale, merger, transfer, or exchange of all or a portion of a business or operating unit if the disclosure of nonpublic personal information concerns solely consumers of the business or unit.
- (7) The nonpublic personal information is released to comply with federal, state, or local laws, rules, and other applicable legal requirements; to comply with a properly authorized civil, criminal, administrative, or regulatory investigation or subpoena or summons by federal, state, or local authorities; or to respond to judicial process or government regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over the financial institution for examination, compliance, or other purposes as authorized by law.

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(8) When a financial institution is reporting a known or suspected instance of elder or dependent adult financial abuse or is cooperating with a local adult protective services agency investigation of known or suspected elder or dependent adult financial abuse pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 15630) of Chapter 11 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

- (9) The nonpublic personal information is released to an affiliate or a nonaffiliated third party in order for the affiliate or nonaffiliated third party to perform business or professional services, such as printing, mailing services, data processing or analysis, customer surveys, or offering the financial institution's own products and services, on behalf of the financial institution, provided that all of the following requirements are met:
- (A) The services to be performed by the affiliate or nonaffiliated third party could lawfully be performed by the financial institution.
- (B) There is a written contract between the affiliate or nonaffiliated third party and the financial institution that prohibits the affiliate or nonaffiliated third party, as the case may be, from disclosing or using the nonpublic personal information other than to carry out the purpose for which the financial institution disclosed the information, as set forth in the written contract.
- (C) The nonpublic personal information provided to the affiliate or nonaffiliated third party is limited to that which is reasonably necessary for the affiliate or nonaffiliated third party to perform the services contracted for on behalf of the financial institution.
- (D) The financial institution does not receive any payment from or through the affiliate or nonaffiliated third party in connection with, or as a result of, the release of the nonpublic personal information.
- (10) The nonpublic personal information is released to identify or locate missing and abducted children, witnesses, criminals and fugitives, parties to lawsuits, parents delinquent in child support payments, organ and bone marrow donors, pension fund beneficiaries, and missing heirs.
- (11) The nonpublic personal information is released to a real estate appraiser licensed or certified by the state for submission to central data repositories such as the California Market Data

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Cooperative, and the nonpublic personal information is compiled strictly to complete other real estate appraisals and is not used for any other purpose.

- (12) The nonpublic personal information is released as required by Title III of the federal United and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (USA Patriot Act; P.L. 107-56).
- (13) The nonpublic personal information is released either to a consumer reporting agency pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq.) or from a consumer report reported by a consumer reporting agency.
- (c) Nothing in this division is intended to change existing law relating to access by law enforcement agencies to information held by financial institutions.
- 4056.5. (a) The provisions of this division do not apply to any person or entity that meets the requirements of paragraph (1) or (2) below. However, when nonpublic personal information is being or will be shared by a person or entity meeting the requirements of paragraph (1) or (2) with an affiliate or nonaffiliated third party, this division shall apply.
- (1) The person or entity is licensed in one or both of the following categories and is acting within the scope of the respective license or certificate:
- (A) As an insurance producer, licensed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 1621), Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 1760), or Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 1831) of Division 1 of the Insurance Code, as a registered investment adviser pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 25230) of Part 3 of Division 1 of Title 4 of the Corporations Code, or as an investment adviser pursuant to Section 202(a)(11) of the federal Investment Advisers Act of 1940.
- (B) Is licensed to sell securities by the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD).
- (2) The person or entity meets the requirements in paragraph (1) and has a written contractual agreement with another person or entity described in paragraph (1) and the contract clearly and explicitly includes the following:

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38 39 (A) The rights and obligations between the licensees arising out of the business relationship relating to insurance or securities transactions.

- (B) An explicit limitation on the use of nonpublic personal information about a consumer to transactions authorized by the contract and permitted pursuant to this division.
- (C) A requirement that transactions specified in the contract fall within the scope of activities permitted by the licenses of the parties.
- (b) The restrictions on disclosure and use of nonpublic personal information, and the requirement for notification and disclosure provided in this division, shall not limit the ability of insurance producers and brokers to respond to written or electronic, including telephone, requests from consumers seeking price quotes on insurance products and services or to obtain competitive quotes to renew an existing insurance contract, provided that any nonpublic personal information disclosed pursuant to this subdivision shall not be used or disclosed except in the ordinary course of business in order to obtain those quotes.
- (c) The disclosure or sharing of nonpublic personal information from an insurer, as defined in Section 23 of the *Insurance Code, to an exclusive agent, defined for purposes of this* division as a licensed agent or broker pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 1621), Chapter 5A (commencing with Section 1759), Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 1760), Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 1800) or Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 1831) of the Insurance Code whose contractual or employment relationship requires that the agent offer only the insurer's policies for sale or whose contractual or employment relationship with an insurer gives the insurer the right of first refusal for all policies of insurance by the agent, and who may only share information with the insurer with whom the agent has a contractual or employment relationship as described above, is not a violation of this division provided that the disclosure or sharing of nonpublic personal information may be limited by the consumer pursuant to any action taken in relation to subdivision (*d*) of Section 4053.
- 4057. (a) An entity that negligently discloses or shares nonpublic personal information in violation of this division shall be liable, irrespective of the amount of damages suffered by the

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consumer as a result of that violation, for a civil penalty not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation. However, if the disclosure or sharing results in the release of nonpublic personal information of more than one individual, the total civil penalty awarded pursuant to this subdivision shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per occurrence.

- (b) An entity that knowingly and willfully obtains, discloses, shares, or uses nonpublic personal information in violation of this division shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation individual violation, irrespective of the amount of damages suffered by the consumer as a result of that violation.
- (c) In determining the penalty to be assessed pursuant to a violation of this division, the court shall take into account the following factors:
 - (1) The total assets and net worth of the violating entity.
 - (2) The nature and seriousness of the violation.
- (3) The persistence of the violation, including any attempts to correct the situation leading to the violation.
 - (4) The length of time over which the violation occurred.
 - (5) The number of times the entity has violated this division.
 - (6) The harm caused to consumers by the violation.
 - (7) The level of proceeds derived from the violation.
- (8) The impact of possible penalties on the overall fiscal solvency of the violating entity.
- (d) In the event a violation of this division results in the identity theft of a consumer, as defined by Section 530.5 of the Penal Code, the civil penalties set forth in this section shall be doubled.
- (e) The civil penalty pursuant to this section shall be assessed and recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the people of the State of California in any court of competent jurisdiction by any of the following:
 - (1) The Attorney General.
 - (2) Any district attorney.

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- (3) Any county counsel authorized by agreement with the 36 district attorney in actions involving violation of a county ordinance.
 - (4) Any city attorney of a city.
- 39 (5) Any city attorney of a city and county having a population in excess of 750,000, with the consent of the district attorney.

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(6) A city prosecutor in any city having a full-time city prosecutor or, with the consent of the district attorney, by a city attorney in any city and county.

(f) This section shall become operative on and after July 1, 2004, for acts in violation of this division that occur on and after July 1, 2004. No penalty shall be applicable for violations of this division occurring prior to July 1, 2004.

4058. Nothing in this division shall be construed as altering or annulling the authority of any department or agency of the state to regulate any financial institution subject to its jurisdiction.

4058.5. This division shall preempt and be exclusive of all local agency ordinances and regulations relating to the use and sharing of nonpublic personal information by financial institutions. This section shall apply both prospectively and retroactively.

4058.7. Nothing in this division shall prevent an insurer, as defined in Section 23 of the Insurance Code, from combining the form required by Section 4053 with the form required pursuant to Article 6.6 (commencing with Section 791) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 1 of the Insurance Code and state regulations implementing the provisions of that article, provided that the combined form meets the clarity and readability requirements contained in paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 4053.

4059. The provisions of this division shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision is declared to be invalid or is preempted by federal law or regulation, the validity of the remainder of this division shall not be affected thereby.